

RARER MOTH SPECIES AT BARCALDINE, ARGYLL, IN 1982-1984. — This note reports some of the less common species of Macrolepidoptera recorded in 1982-1984 at a Robinson 125-watt m.v. light trap which was run almost nightly during the spring, summer and autumn of the years 1980-1984. Some species are common in southern Britain but apparently scarce or local here and these are recorded for that reason. All were single specimens, except where numbers are given in brackets. These are numbers recorded in the stated year and in each subsequent year up to 1984. The site at Barcaldine (Argyll) is at map reference NM 964414.

Recorded in 1982 but not in 1980-81: *Tethea* or *D.* & *S.*, *Idaea straminata* Borkh., *Hydriomena ruberata* Freyer, *Perizoma bifaciata* Haw., *Ourapteryx sambucaria* L. (1,0,1), *Ematurga atomaria* L. (2), *Orgyia antiqua* L., *Nudaria mundana* L. (2,2,1), *Euxoa cursoria* Hufn., *Agrotis segetum* D. & S. (1,2,0), *Paradiarsia sobrina* Dup., *Mythimna conigera* D. & S., *M. pallens* L., *M. unipuncta* Haw. (2,0,1), *Craniophora ligustri* D. & S. (3,2,6), *Thalpophila matura* Hufn., *Luperina testacea* D. & S. (2,0,3), *Rhizedra lutosa* Hubn. (1,1,9).

Recorded in 1983 but not in 1980-82: *Cyclophora albipunctata* Hufn., *Rhodometra sacraria* L. (2), *Eulithis prunata* L., *Chloroclystis rectangulata* L., *Eilema lurideola* Zincken, *Polia hepatica* Clerck, *Cucullia umbratica* L. (2,1), *Xylena exsoleta* L. (2), *Acronicta leporina* L. (1, 1), *Mormo maura* L., *Apamea unanimitis* Hubn. (1,3), *Nycteola revayana* Scop. (2,0).

Recorded in 1984 but not in 1980-83: *Perizoma blandiata* D. & S. (2), *Lobophora halterata* Hufn., *Semiothisa clathrata* L., *Clostera pigra* Hufn., *Phragmatobia fuliginosa* L. (2), *Mamestra brassicae* L., *Lacanobia contigua* D. & S.

The following species have been recorded previously (1980/81) at this site but are scarce. Numbers in brackets are numbers of specimens in 1982-83-84. *Plemyria rubiginata* D. & S. (3,0,0), *Colostygia olivata* D. & S. (0,1,0), *Perizoma taeniatum* Stephens (4,3,2), *Carsia sororiata* Hubn. (0,0,1), *Trichopteryx polycommata* D. & S. (1,3,5), *Abraxas grossulariata* L. (0,0,1), *A. sylvatica* Scop. (2,3,0), *Semiothisa notata* L. (1,2,3), *Cleora cinctaria* D. & S. (0,1,0), *Cleorodes lichenaria* Hufn. (3,2,5), *Dyscia fagaria* Thunb. (5,2,1), *Setina irrorella* L. (0,4,2), *Xestia rhomboidea* Esper (0,0,2), *X. agathina* Dup. (0,4,1), *Eurois occulta* L. (20,2,1), *Panolis flammea* D. & S. (1,1,0), *Lithomoia solidaginis* Hubn. (2,6,0), *Acronicta menyanthidis* Esper (2,2,1), *Apamea exulis* Lefebvre (5,6,4), *A. ophiogramma* Esper (0,0,5), *Eustrotia uncula* Clerck (0,2,0).

The following corrections should be made to the previous list from this site (*Ent. Rec.* 1982, 94: 243-244):

Delete *E. flavicinctata* Hubn.

For *P. bombycina* Hufn. read *Lacanobia biren* Goeze.

For *A. tridens* D. & S. read *A. psi* L.

For *B. prasinana* L. read *Pseudoips fagana britannica* Warren.

I am indebted to E. C. Pelham-Clinton for confirming the identities of most of the above species, and to I. C. Christie for advice and encouragement. J. C. A. CRAIK, Marine Laboratory, P. O. Box 3, Oban, Argyll.

TEMPERATURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BLUE BUTTERFLY AT MALVERN IN JANUARY 1983. — Further to the mention by Dr. C. J. Luckens in *Ent. Rec.* **96**: 237-242, the blue butterfly was disturbed from a pile of logs by a Mrs. K. Edwards on January 8th. The logs were near to mature holly trees, and with plenty of ivy in the area it seemed probable that it was *C. argiolus* Linn, a holly blue. Observations since support this assumption because this species is often plentiful there, eg. the second brood in 1984.

Through the kindness of Mr. Frank Hill of the Meteorological Office Radar Research Station at Malvern, I receive detailed information of local climatic conditions, therefore I have been able to study daily records for the period before the sighting. Mr. Hill considers that the location of Mrs. Edwards' garden is such that temperatures there should be similar to those at the recording site which is about 1½ miles away. The records show that maximum shade temperatures reached 59°F on December 15th, 54° on the 19th, and there was a warm period over Christmas from 24th to 27th. Then there was a most exceptional warm period in early January when temperatures reached levels normally associated with late April, as follows:—

Date January 1983	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24 Hr maximum °C	10.2	11.8	12.2	13.9	14.4	11.7	7.8
minimum °C	7.0	4.5	6.0	8.8	6.4	11.1	4.0
Long term averages for early January:—					day maximum	6.5°C	
					night minimum	2.1°C	

Maximum temperatures far exceeded the normal maximum, reaching a record 14.4°C (58°F approx) on the 5th. Furthermore on three nights even the lowest temperature exceeded the normal maximum daily temperature for early January. Understandably these high temperatures coincided with a low pressure period and there was much cloud and rain, however there were some periods of sunshine, notably three hours on the 5th.

Mr. Hill also analysed local records from 1955 to 1985 for the first 7 days of January, and found that 1983 was the warmest on all three criteria of highest maximum, highest mean and highest minimum. Interestingly, a rank order plot showed that the next warmest years were 1975 and 1976; also 1979 and 1963 were the coldest.